



MILDENHALL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

WEST SUFFOLK.

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1942.

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.



Public Health Offices,  
Westgate House,  
13, Westgate Street,  
Bury St. Edmund's.  
June, 1943.

To:-

The Chairman & Members of the  
Rural District Council of Mildenhall,  
in the County of West Suffolk.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In submitting for your favourable consideration  
my seventh Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, being  
for the year ending December 31st, 1942, I wish to express  
my gratitude for the support and assistance of the Council  
and their Officers.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT. H. CLAYTON,  
M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.,

also Medical Officer of Health, Cosford,  
Thedwastre and Thingoe Rural Districts,  
Newmarket Urban District and  
Assistant County Medical Officer of  
Health - West Suffolk.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

H.W. Trotter, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,  
Meat and Other Foods Certificate,  
R.S.I., also Building Surveyor and  
Petroleum and Explosives Officer.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	86,759 acres	
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population mid-year	12,660	Rateable Value £53,231
Number of inhabited houses at end of year according to Rate Book	3,628	Sum represented by a Penny Rate £221

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	265	130	135
Illegitimate	11	5	6

Stillbirths.

Legitimate	4	2	2
Illegitimate	1	-	1

<u>Deaths.</u>	162	70	92
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<u>Birth Rate.</u>	Mildenhall 21.8	England & Wales 15.8
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<u>Stillbirth Rate per 1000 total (live &amp; still) births</u>	"	17.8
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<u>Death Rate per 1000 resident population</u>	"	12.8	"	11.6
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Death Rate of Infants  
under 1 year

All infants per 1000 live births	39.9	"	49
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate births	37.7		
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births	90.9		

11 deaths of infants under 1 year occurred, (6 males and 4 females and 1 male illegitimate). 2 deaths from maternal causes (one each Heading 29 & 30), 25 deaths from Cancer and no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough or Diarrhoea (under 2 years) were recorded.

On the following page is a table giving the causes and the number of deaths occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar General's figures. The deaths are classified under the Headings given in the Manual of the International List of Causes of Deaths - 1938.

The Birth Rate of 1942 (21.8) far exceeds the highest recorded in my previous six annual reports (18.4 in 1937).

The Death Rate, (12.8), approximates the average (12.5) of the previous six years. Of the 162 deaths 82 = 51% occurred at age 70 years or more.

Deaths at the Sub-joined ages of  
"RESIDENTS" whether occurring in  
or beyond District.

	TOTAL = Registrar Generals Figures							
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
M = Male								
F = Female								
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Other Tuberculous Diseases	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	3
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Acute poliomyelitis & polioencephalitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Cancer of Breast	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Cancer of All Other Sites	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	5
Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Bronchitis	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Appendicitis	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Other Digestive Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4
Nephritis	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1
Puerperal & post abortive Sepsis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Premature Birth	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital malformations, birth Injury, infantile disease	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	5
Suicide	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Other Violent Causes	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	3
All Other Causes	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	12
TOTAL Males	7	-	2	-	1	3	4	15
Females	-	4	-	3	-	2	-	38
								70
								-
								92

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### (ii) (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge, under the Directorship of Dr. A.W. Downie, carried out, in addition to the usual public health bacteriological examinations, the examination of water samples, milk samples and provided diphtheria immunisation materials and measles serum.

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|---|---|------------|
| {b) <u>AMBULANCE FACILITIES.</u>            | } | No Change. |
| {c) <u>NURSING IN THE HOME.</u>             |   |            |
| {d) <u>CLINICS &amp; TREATMENT CENTRES.</u> |   |            |
| {e) <u>HOSPITALS.</u>                       |   |            |

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### 1. (i) WATER.

Piped supplies owned by the Council cover practically the whole of eleven parishes including Brandon which has had its own supply for many years. Except in the Fen district where the supply is mainly from what are locally termed "drains" the supply in the remaining parishes, save for a few privately owned piped supplies and bore wells, is from shallow wells.

During the year twenty-two samples were taken from the three undertakings owned by the Council all of which were satisfactory. Thirty-nine samples were taken from 26 other sources which showed that 21 of the supplies were unsatisfactory. The owners in these cases agreed to come on to the Public Supply but only in nine cases was the Council able to give a connection on account of labour difficulties.

During 1942 two hundred and seventy four connections were made to the Mildenhall and Moulton undertakings but sixty-two applications are still outstanding for the reason given. The total number of connections to the Mildenhall and Moulton schemes to the end of the year was seven hundred and nineteen.

The daily average output for December in respect of Mildenhall, Moulton and Brandon undertakings was estimated at 85,000 gallons, 19,000 gallons and 70,000 gallons respectively.

#### (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The arrangements with the Mechanical Cleansing Services, Ltd., for the clearance of cesspools was continued throughout 1942. The Council's Scheme provides for a free clearance once in two years in Mildenhall, Brandon and Lakenheath at all rate contributing premises where no free weekly clearance of pail closets was given. Intermediate clearances and clearance of all other cesspools was made at a cost of £1/10/- per cesspool. As from April 1st, 1942 the Free Clearance Scheme was extended to the whole area.

Number of premises at which cesspools were cleared by the Company was as follows:-

Mildenhall	Free	16	Charged	8	Total	24
Brandon	"	15	"	38	"	53
Lakenheath	"	2	"	5	"	7
Other Parishes	"	1	"	3	"	4
	"	34	"	54	"	88

In addition the two tanks dealing with the sewerage at the 16 Council Houses at Brandon were also cleared.

During the year the Council decided to purchase a Karrier Cesspool Emptier to be delivered early in January, 1943.

Seven extensions and additions were made to existing drains and five complete new systems installed. All these were inspected and found satisfactory.

## 2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The work of cleaning out and deepening the various water courses in the area has been continued by the various authorities concerned. No complaints have been received during the year of difficulty in regard to drinking water in the Fens, the part most affected.

## 3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The number of pail closets dealt with by the Contractors remains as in previous years i.e. Mildenhall 204, Brandon 433, Lakenheath 207. The figures relate only to those in the parts of the parish concerned where a free weekly clearance is given.

The undermentioned conversions were carried out:-

From vault or Pail System to W.C.	7
" " to Pail System	3
Additional and new W.C.	5
" " " Pail Closets	6

## (ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Council collect every kind of waste material except paper, in all parts of the area. Weekly collections are made in Mildenhall (High Town) Brandon and Lakenheath (Village). In the remainings parts of these parishes and all other parishes in the area the collection is monthly. Paper is collected in each parish by voluntary organisations and marketed by the Council.

The value of the material salvaged during the year amounted to £456. as compared with £278. in 1941 and £240. in 1940. A large proportion of the proceeds was returned to the villages in which the material was collected.

## (iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement has been supplied to me by Mr. Trotter:-

### Number of Inspections.

Inspection of Houses under the Public Health & Housing Acts	193
Buildings, under Building Byelaws	44
Council House Management	268
Tents, Vans, Sheds	10
Factories & Workshops	35
Shops	20
Schools	42
Cowsheds	107
Butcher's Shops & Slaughterhouses	20
Bakehouses	12
Disinfections & visits in connection with Infectious Diseases	17
Nuisances investigated	30
Number of samples Water	61
Evacuation	449
Interviews other than Evacuation	538
Public Conveniences	79
Drainage & Cesspools	83
	2,008

(b) Number of Notices served during the year:-

Informal	128
Statutory	7
(Exclusive of those served in respect of War Damage)	

Notices complied with:-

Informal	106
Statutory	1

Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections of Factories with power	12
" " " without "	3
No. in which Limewashing and cleansing required	4
" " " defects were found in connection	
with sanitary conveniences	4
All defects were remedied after informal notice	

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No. of Inspections	20
No. of premises in which defects	
were found and remedied	2

(v) CAMPING SITES.

No. of visits	10
Licensed Sites	15
Estimated number of occupiers	50

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action called for.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS & POOLS.

There are no recognised facilities provided in the area. There are, however, a number of points in the Ouse in the area of Brandon and Lakenheath and in the Larke at Icklingham, Barton Mills, Mildenhall, West Row and in a large pond at Undley, where bathing is carried out. Bacteriological examination of samples taken at Brandon, Mildenhall, Barton Mills and West Row reveal that the waters of the Ouse and Larke are not suitable for swimming.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. No action called for.

4. SCHOOLS.

Forty-two visits were paid to the schools in the area and the following defects were brought to notice:-

Conveniences in need of cleansing	4
No Water Supply	1
Choked drains	4
Insufficient closet accommodation	3
Defective receptacle to convenience	1

The following work has been carried out as a result of informal action:-

Conveniences cleansed	4
Drains cleared	4
Water supply provided	1
Additional closet accommodation provided	1

SECTION D.

H O U S I N G.

1.(1)(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	137
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	193
(2)(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-Head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925	6
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	6
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	135

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers:-

By owners                    128  
By Local Authority       Nil

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit as the result of the service of Statutory Notices                    1

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

No accurate information with regard to overcrowding is available.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Number of registered Cowkeepers	111
Number of retailers who do not keep cows in the area	3
Number of visits of inspections to Cowsheds	107
Number of contraventions of the Milk & Dairies Order, (Limewashing & Cleansing)	10

These Cowsheds were Limewashed after informal notices.

A large number of Small Cowkeepers have become Wholesale Milk Producers as a result of an appeal for more milk by the Ministry of Agriculture. In many cases these producers have no proper premises or cooling facilities. In normal times it is difficult to get the small owner to bring his premises up to the very moderate structural standard set by the Milk & Dairies Order, but in war time when labour and material are both in short supply these difficulties are increased.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Licensed Slaughterhouses	5
" " " Knackers Yards	2
" " visits of inspection to above	20
" " carcasses inspected - Pigs	29
Sheep	2
Bovines	1

There are no Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses in the area and above licenses are taken out by owners in order to deal with "casualties" and to slaughter occasionally for private individuals under Licence from the Local Food Officer or the Police.

Meat unfit for human consumption and disposed of for animal food:-

Tuberculosis:- Pigs heads and tongues	6
Spleen and fats	5
Lungs	1

Decomposition:- Bacon	8 lbs
Bone Taint, etc: Beef	34 lbs

Other food unfit for human consumption by reason of Perforation, Blown, etc. Mainly imported:-

Milk	29 Cans	6 lb Cans Pork -	17 Cans
Cans fish & meat	46 "	6 lb     " Chopped ham	6     "
Cans vegetables & fruit	58 "		

Food not canned:-

Kelloggs "All Bran"	2 Pkts
Oranges	13 lbs
Eggs (Imported)	4½ score
Fish Cakes	7 doz:
Cake	90 lbs
Cheese parings	148 lbs

- {(c) ADULTERATION, ETC.  
{(d) CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.  
{(e) NUTRITION.  
{(f) SHELL-FISH (Molluscan).  
{(g) WATER CRESS.
- } } } No change

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, & CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of Infectious Diseases notified during the year:-

ALL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1942

	Total Cases Notified.													Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		-1	1	2	3	4	5	-10	-15	-20	-35	-45	-65		
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Whooping Cough	16	1	-	3	3	3	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Measles	15	1	1	1	3	2	2	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
	38	2	1	5	6	5	5	8	3	1	2	-	-	3	2

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
5 - 15	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
15 - 25	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
25 - 35	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Total:-	2	-	-	7	1	3	-	3

32 cases remained on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year, Respiratory Male 11, Female 6 and Non-Respiratory Male 8, Female 7.

The number of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in 1942 was 38 - a considerable improvement on the 135 of 1941.

By the end of 1942 60% of children under 5 years of age and 90% of children between 5 and 15 years of age had completed the Diphtheria Immunisation course.

During 1942 112 cases of Scabies were treated - 46 under the old arrangements and 66 at the Centre equipped and staffed by this Authority and opened in September.

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